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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:  
PATEL, Arvind D.

Application No.: Filed herewith

Filing Date: Herewith

For: IMPROVED OIL-BASED DRILLING FLUID

Prior Application No. 08/862,201

Prior Group Art Unit: 1712

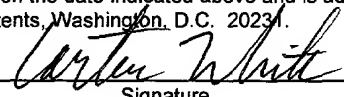
Prior Examiner: Tucker, P.

Atty. Dkt. No.: MIDR:582--1/WHC

REQUEST FOR FILING CONTINUATION APPLICATION  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b)

BOX PATENT APPLICATIONS

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL	
EL521287841US	
NUMBER	
DATE OF DEPOSIT	26 Jan 2001
I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.	
	
Signature	

A continuation application under Rule 53(b) (37 C.F.R. 1.53(b)) of co-pending prior application Serial No. 08/862,201 filed on 23 May, 1997 entitled "IMPROVED OIL-BASED DRILLING FLUID" is requested.

☒ 1. Enclosed is a true copy of the prior application Serial No. 08/862,201 as originally filed, including specification, claims, drawings, and declaration. The copy of the papers of prior application as filed which are attached are as follows:

- ☒ 29 page(s) of specification
- ☒ 4 page(s) of claims
- ☒ 1 page(s) of abstract
- ☐ 0 page(s) of drawing
- ☐ 0 page(s) of declaration

- ☒ 2. The inventor(s) of the invention being claimed in this application is(are):PATEL, Arvind D..
- ☐ 3. This application is being filed by less than all the inventors named in the parent application. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.53(b), the Commissioner is requested to delete the name(s) of the following person or persons who are not inventors of the invention being claimed in this application:
- ☒ 4. Please cancel in this application claims 19-22 of the prior application before calculating the filing fee. (At least one original independent claim must be retained).
- ☒ 5. Enclosed is a preliminary amendment adding claims 23-24 to this application. Any additional fees incurred by this amendment are included in the fee at No. 7 below and the fee has been calculated after the cancellation of claims in the application as filed and after amendment of claims by the preliminary amendment.
- ☒ 6. Please amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence: -- This is a continuation of co-pending application Serial No. 08/862,201 filed 23 May, 1997--.
- ☒ 7. Please charge the amount to cover the filing fee as calculated below to Account No. 01-2508 Order No. MIDR:582--1, including the fee for any new claims added by the Preliminary Amendment referred to above in 5.

			Other than Small Entity	
Total Claims	20 - 20	= 0	x \$ 18.00	= \$ 0
Independent Claims	3 - 3	= 0	x \$ 80.00	= \$ 0
First Multiple Dependent Claim Presented			+ \$ 270.00	= \$ 0
Basic Fee			+ \$ 710.00	= \$ 710.00
TOTAL FILING FEE = \$ 710.00				

- ☒ 8. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 which may be required for any reason relating to this document, or credit

any overpayment to Account No. 01-2508 Order No. MIDR:582--1. A duplicate of this request is enclosed.

- ☐ 9. Applicant is entitled to Small Entity Status for this application.
- ☐ (b) A Statement of Small Entity Status was established in the prior application a copy of which is enclosed herein.
- ☐ (c). A newly executed Small Entity Status is enclosed.
- ☒ 10. The power of attorney in the prior application is to Stephen H. Cagle.
- ☒ (a) The Power of Attorney appears in the original papers of the prior application.
- ☐ (b) Since the power does not appear in the original papers, a copy of the Power of Attorney in the prior application filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.
- ☐ (c) A newly executed Power of Attorney is enclosed.

Please associate this application with and address all correspondence to:

Customer Number 27551,

HOWREY SIMON ARNOLD & WHITE LLP  
750 Bering Drive  
Houston, Texas 77057

- ☒ 11. The prior application is presently assigned to M-I, L.L.C.
- ☒ A copy of the recorded assignment is attached.
- ☐ A statement under 37 C.F.R. 3.73(b) has been filed in the parent application. A copy of this statement as filed in the parent application is attached.
- ☐ 12. Enclosed are copies of the formal drawings as submitted in the parent application. If acceptable, please utilize these drawings as the formal drawings for this divisional application.
- ☒ 13. The Commissioner is hereby specifically requested to make the Information Disclosure Statement, as well as any prior art of record in the prior application(s), of record in connection with this application.
- ☒ 14. Other: Application Data Sheet; postcard

HOWREY  
SIMON  
ARNOLD  
& WHITE LLP

Serial No.: Herewith  
Applicant: PATEL  
MIDR:582--1

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Applicant hereby requests for any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application. Applicant's representative hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 01-2508, referencing Order No. MIDR:582--1/WHC.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

Respectfully submitted,



Carter J. White  
Patent Agent  
Reg. No. 41,374  
Date: 26 Jun 01